

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

By Black

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mr. Ralph McDonald upon his recognition as 2006-2007 Ducks Unlimited International Artist of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy citizen is renowned wildlife artist Ralph McDonald who has proven to be a dynamic force in both the arts and the outdoor sporting communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald has been honored as the 2006-2007 Ducks Unlimited International Artist of the Year, marking the second time that he has earned this distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald is known for his warm renderings of the outdoor sporting life; and

WHEREAS, *Got 'em Dad*, the painting that earned him his most recent International Artist of the Year title, is part of a series of Greenwing prints that feature children in a duck-hunting environment; this line of prints, which captures the spirit of tradition that accompanies waterfowl hunting, is a favorite among wildlife art collectors; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited (DU), based in Memphis, Tennessee, is the world's largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization, with more than one million supporters; and

WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, Mr. McDonald has been producing wildlife- and hunting-themed prints for DU; his prints have raised more than \$20 million for conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ralph McDonald epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he has contributed greatly to the creative, artistic, and

cultural lives of his fellow citizens, as well as contributing significantly to DU's conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ralph McDonald for his dedication to the propagation of the arts and the conservation of our natural resources in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mr. Ralph McDonald for being named DU's International Artist of the Year for 2006-2007 and for his commitment to conservation via his art.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.